

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-captioned application as amended.

In this Amendment, claims 1-28 remain pending without amendment. Claims 1, 2, 13-18, 21, 24 and 26 are the independent claims.

In response to the Office Action dated December 15, 2004, Applicants timely filed a fully responsive Amendment on Tuesday, January 18, 2005 by facsimile. The present Office Action dated February 28, 2005 states that this Amendment is non-compliant because claim 1 is "missing or blacked out." Apparently, at least one page failed to be processed properly by the facsimile. Accordingly, Applicants are now resubmitting the content of the prior Amendment. It is submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to both the Office Action of December 15, 2004 and the Office Action of February 28, 2005.

Thus:

This application is a reissue of U.S. Patent 6,304,996. In the STATEMENT OF STATUS AND SUPPORT AND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT filed concurrently with this application on October 15, 2004, original claim 1 and new reissue claims 2-28 were not underlined. The Office Action dated December 15, 2005 requires only that all newly added claim language be underlined. Accordingly, original claim 1 is now presented without underlining and new reissue claims 2-28 are presented with underlining.

An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

If any fee is due for this filing, please charge the LARGE ENTITY fee therefor to Deposit Account No. 16-2500 of the undersigned.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached by telephone at (212) 969-3314 or by

facsimile at (212) 969-2900. Please direct all correspondence to Customer No. 21890 at the address provided below.

Respectfully submitted
PROSKAUER ROSE LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

Date: March 28, 2005

PROSKAUER ROSE LLP
1585 Broadway
New York, NY 10036

Tel: (212) 969-3000

By Abigail Cousins
Abigail F. Cousins
Reg. No. 29,292